

Amdt. dated May 9, 2005  
Reply to Office action of 08/05/2004

Serial No. 09/998,463  
Docket No. TUC920010104US1  
Firm No. 0018.0109

### Listing of Claims

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2; A method for processing Input/Output (I/O) requests to a storage network including at least one storage device and at least two adaptors, wherein each adaptor is capable of communicating I/O requests to at least one storage device, comprising:

detecting an error in a system including a first adaptor, wherein the first adaptor is capable of communicating on the storage network after the error is detected;

determining whether the first adaptor is designated a master of the storage network after the error is detected;

starting a master switch timer that is less than a system timeout period if the first adaptor is the master after detecting the error, wherein an error recovery procedure in the system including the first adaptor is initiated after the system timeout period has expired;

initiating an operation to designate a second adaptor in the storage network as the master if the first adaptor is the master in response to detecting an expiration of the master switch timer;  
and

sending a reset request to the first adaptor after the master switch timer expires, wherein the reset causes a reset of the first adaptor and not other components within the system including the first adaptor.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the reset causes a power cycle of the system including the first adaptor.

Amdt. dated May 9, 2005  
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Serial No. 09/998,463  
Docket No. TUC920010104US1  
Firm No. 0018.0109

5. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 2,~~ A method for processing Input/Output (I/O) requests to a storage network including at least one storage device and at least two adaptors, wherein each adaptor is capable of communicating I/O requests to at least one storage device, comprising:

detecting an error in a system including a first adaptor, wherein the first adaptor is capable of communicating on the storage network after the error is detected;

determining whether the first adaptor is designated a master of the storage network after the error is detected;

starting a master switch timer that is less than a system timeout period if the first adaptor is the master after detecting the error, wherein an error recovery procedure in the system including the first adaptor is initiated after the system timeout period has expired;

initiating an operation to designate a second adaptor in the storage network as the master if the first adaptor is the master in response to detecting an expiration of the master switch timer; and

sending a reset request to the first adaptor after the master switch timer expires, wherein sending the reset request further comprises: by issuing a get identifier request to obtain an identifier of the first adaptor, wherein the reset request is sent to the obtained identifier if the identifier is returned in response to the get identifier request.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
issuing another get identifier request to the first adaptor if a previous get identifier request failed.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 58, further comprising:  
initiating a monitoring state to monitor I/O requests transmitted through the second adaptor in response to detecting the error;

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Serial No. 09/998,463  
Docket No. TUC920010104US1  
Firm No. 0018.0109

starting at the I/O delay timer that is less than the system timeout period in response to receiving an I/O request; and

sending a reset request to the first adaptor in response to detecting an expiration of one started I/O delay timer.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

starting a monitoring timer equivalent to the system timeout period after detecting the error at the first adaptor; and

terminating the monitoring state and any pending I/O delay timers after the monitoring timer expires.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

starting a monitoring timer equivalent to the adaptor timeout period after detecting the error at the first adaptor;

beginning a process to issue an additional get identifier request to the first adaptor if any previous get identifier request failed; and

terminating the monitoring state, any pending I/O delay timers, and the process to issue additional get identifier requests after an expiration of the monitoring timer.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the steps of initiating a monitoring state, starting the I/O delay timer and sending the reset request are performed by a device driver executing in an operating system.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~7~~ 3, wherein the detected error indicates that the first adaptor is unable to communicate to the system housing the first adaptor.

Amdt. dated May 9, 2005  
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Serial No. 09/998,463  
Docket No. TUC920010104US1  
Firm No. 0018.0109

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein I/O requests continue to be processed through the second adaptor until a reset request is sent.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein the system including the first adaptor is a first system, wherein the device driver and the operating system are in a second system.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein the second adaptor is within the system including the first adaptor, and wherein the reset causes a reset of the first adaptor.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein the storage network on which the adaptors and storage devices communicate comprises a loop topology.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the adaptors and storage devices communicate using the Serial Storage Architecture (SSA) protocol.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein the detected error indicates an error within the first adaptor.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 20;~~ A system for processing Input/Output (I/O) requests to a storage network including at least one storage device and a system including a first adaptor capable of communicating I/O requests to at least one storage device, wherein the system including the first adaptor initiates an error recovery procedure after a system timeout period has expired, comprising:  
a second adaptor capable of communicating on the storage network;

Amdt. dated May 9, 2005  
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Serial No. 09/998,463  
Docket No. TUC920010104US1  
Firm No. 0018.0109

means for detecting an error in the system including the first adaptor, wherein the first adaptor is capable of communicating on the storage network after the error is detected;

means for determining whether the first adaptor is designated a master of the storage network after the error is detected;

means for starting a master switch timer, after detecting the error, that is less than the system timeout period if the first adaptor is the master;

means for initiating an operation to designate the second adaptor in the storage network as the master if the first adaptor is the master in response to detecting an expiration of the master switch timer; and

means for sending a reset request to the first adaptor after the master switch timer expires, wherein the reset causes a reset of the first adaptor and not other components within the system including the first adaptor.

22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 20 21, wherein the reset causes a power cycle of the system including the first adaptor.

23. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 20;~~ A system for processing Input/Output (I/O) requests to a storage network including at least one storage device and a system including a first adaptor capable of communicating I/O requests to at least one storage device, wherein the system including the first adaptor initiates an error recovery procedure after a system timeout period has expired, comprising:

a second adaptor capable of communicating on the storage network;

means for detecting an error in the system including the first adaptor, wherein the first adaptor is capable of communicating on the storage network after the error is detected;

means for determining whether the first adaptor is designated a master of the storage network after the error is detected;

Amdt. dated May 9, 2005  
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Serial No. 09/998,463  
Docket No. TUC920010104US1  
Firm No. 0018.0109

means for starting a master switch timer, after detecting the error, that is less than the system timeout period if the first adaptor is the master;

means for initiating an operation to designate the second adaptor in the storage network as the master if the first adaptor is the master in response to detecting an expiration of the master switch timer; and

means for sending a reset request to the first adaptor after the master switch timer expires, wherein the means for sending the reset request further performs: issuing a get identifier request to obtain an identifier of the first adaptor, wherein the reset request is sent to the obtained identifier if the identifier is returned in response to the get identifier request.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, further comprising:  
means for issuing another get identifier request to the first adaptor if a previous get identifier request failed.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19 59, further comprising:  
means for initiating a monitoring state to monitor I/O requests transmitted through the second adaptor in response to detecting the error;  
means for starting an the I/O delay timer that is less than the system timeout period in response to receiving an I/O request; and  
means for sending a reset request to the first adaptor in response to detecting an expiration of one started I/O delay timer.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) The system of claim 25, further comprising:  
means for starting a monitoring timer equivalent to the system timeout period after detecting the error at the first adaptor; and

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Serial No. 09/998,463  
Docket No. TUC920010104US1  
Firm No. 0018.0109

means for terminating the monitoring state and any pending I/O delay timers after the monitoring timer expires.

28. (Original) The system of claim 25, further comprising:

means for starting a monitoring timer equivalent to the adaptor timeout period after detecting the error at the first adaptor;

means for beginning a process to issue an additional get identifier request to the first adaptor if any previous get identifier request failed; and

means for terminating the monitoring state, any pending I/O delay timers, and the process to issue additional get identifier requests after an expiration of the monitoring timer.

29. (Original) The system of claim 25, further including:

an operating system; and

a device driver executing in the operating system, wherein the means for initiating a monitoring state, starting the I/O delay timer and sending the reset request are performed by the device driver.

30. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 21, wherein the detected error indicates that the first adaptor is unable to communicate to the system housing the first adaptor.

31. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 21, wherein I/O requests continue to be processed through the second adaptor until a reset request is sent.

32. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 21, wherein the system including the first adaptor is a separate system accessible over the storage network.

Amdt. dated May 9, 2005  
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Serial No. 09/998,463  
Docket No. TUC920010104US1  
Firm No. 0018.0109

33. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 21, wherein the first adaptor is within the system including the second adaptor, and wherein the reset causes a reset of the first adaptor.

34. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 21, wherein the storage network on which the adaptors and storage devices communicate comprises a loop topology.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34, wherein the adaptors and storage devices communicate using the Serial Storage Architecture (SSA) protocol.

36. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 21, wherein the detected error indicates an error within the first adaptor.

37-54 (Canceled)

55. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein a reset request is sent to an identifier of the first adapter after the master switch timer expires.

56. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 21, wherein a reset request is sent to an identifier of the first adapter after the master switch timer expires.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1, A method for processing Input/Output (I/O) requests to a storage network including at least one storage device and at least two adaptors, wherein each adaptor is capable of communicating I/O requests to at least one storage device, comprising:~~

Amtd. dated May 9, 2005  
Reply to Office action of 08/05/2004

Serial No. 09/998,463  
Docket No. TUC920010104US1  
Firm No. 0018.0109

detecting an error in a system including a first adaptor, wherein the first adaptor is capable of communicating on the storage network after the error is detected;

determining whether the first adaptor is designated a master of the storage network after the error is detected;

starting a master switch timer that is less than a system timeout period if the first adaptor is the master after detecting the error, wherein an error recovery procedure in the system including the first adaptor is initiated after the system timeout period has expired; and

initiating an operation to designate a second adaptor in the storage network as the master if the first adaptor is the master in response to detecting an expiration of the master switch timer, wherein the master switch timer is less than an I/O delay timer that is less than the system timeout period.

59. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, A system for processing Input/Output (I/O) requests to a storage network including at least one storage device and a system including a first adaptor capable of communicating I/O requests to at least one storage device, wherein the system including the first adaptor initiates an error recovery procedure after a system timeout period has expired, comprising:

a second adaptor capable of communicating on the storage network;

means for detecting an error in the system including the first adaptor, wherein the first adaptor is capable of communicating on the storage network after the error is detected;

means for determining whether the first adaptor is designated a master of the storage network after the error is detected;

means for starting a master switch timer, after detecting the error, that is less than the system timeout period if the first adaptor is the master; and

means for initiating an operation to designate the second adaptor in the storage network as the master if the first adaptor is the master in response to detecting an expiration of the master

Amdt. dated May 9, 2005  
Rcply to Office action of 08/05/2004

Serial No. 09/998,463  
Docket No. TUC920010104US1  
Firm No. 0018.0109

switch timer, wherein the master switch timer is less than an I/O delay timer that is less than the system timeout period.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein the first adapter is in a first computer system and wherein the second adapter is in a second computer system.

62. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 21, wherein the first adapter is in a first computer system and wherein the second adapter is in a second computer system.

~~64~~ 63. (Canceled)